

AFCCC-MILWA

The Milwaukee fire

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One of [Mr Milwaukee nephews?] was recently burned to death in a hotel fire in Baltimore [?] [I Think?] it would be kinder [if?] omit his one[.] [Tain't?] a very good song anyhow [md] just [a?] good sample [md] [?][?][2:40+?][substitute?][?]

THE MILWAUKEE FIRE'Twas the gray of early morning when the dreadful cry of "Fire!" Rang out upon the cold and piercing air. Just that little word alone was all it did require To [send?] dismay and panic everywhere. Milwaukee was excited as she never'd been before On learning that the fire bells all around Were ringing through eternity a hundred [souls?] or And the Newhall House was burning to the ground. When the dreadful alarm was sounded through that oft-condemned hotel, They rushed in mad confusion [?] every way. The smoke was suffocating, and blinded them as well: The Fire King could not be held at bay. [(Sung in 1937 but omitted in 1954)?] (Oh, hear the fire bells ringing on the morning's early dawn! Oh, hear them as they give the dreadful [cry?]) Oh, hear the wail of terror, mid fierce and burning flames! Heaven protect and bless those waiting there to die!) From every window men and women wildly would beseech For help in tones of anguish and despair; What could have been their feelings when the ladders [would?] not reach, [?????????] And (they [found?]) death ([s?] grasp) clasped around them [everywhere?]) In one window you could see a man, his wife stood by his [side?] [md] They tell us that this was a millionaire. To save him from this dreadful fire. they left no means untried, (But) Gold nor treasure had no value there. A boy stood in the window and his mother down below, And when she saw the flames approaching wild, With up-raised hands to pray for him, she knelt down in the snow, And the stoutest hearts heart could not restrain a tear. She madly rushed towards the fire and wildly tore her hair, Saying, "God, take me, but spare my pride and joy!" She saw the flames surround him, and then in dark despair, Said: "Oh God, have mercy on my only boy!" Up in the highest window [s tood?] a servant girl alone, And the crowd beneath all [s tood?] with [bated?] breath, They [t urned?] away their faces with many's the [s tified?] groan, When she jumped to meet perhaps as hard a death. They tell us now that this hotel had been on fire before, [Andnot?] considered safe for several years. But the man that owned it let it run on as before; And they are not to blame, it now appears. Incendiarism this time has been the cause, they say, But who the fiend is, they cannot tell. But Milwaukee will not rest, neither by night or day, Until this matter is investigated well. 2 Milwaukee Fire But that will be no benefit to those who passed away In Milwaukee's greatest funeral pyre. And peace be[-?] to their [a shes?]) [?] the best that we can say For the victims of this great [a nd?] [d readful?] fire.

The [?] Newhall House in [Milwaukee?] burned to the ground January 10, 1883, 5 months before the singer was born. [?]? It still seemed perfectly reasonable to him and his friends that the hotel's owner should be held morally innocent of the high percentage of death's, his responsibility apparently limited only to first causes, [?] not [extending?] to [such?] indirect protection as fire [escapes?].

This song is typical of those made up about various disasters, fires and explosions being an especially popular subject, along with sea disasters like the sinking of the Titanic and various tragedies on [excursion?] steamers. Unlike the ballads built upon tragedies that occur in the almost normal course of work, [and] in mines, on river drives, accidents [to sailors at?] sea [and] where the particular incident is [?] made to stand for hazards common to a large group of people, taking on therefore a classic and symbolic air. The present ballad belongs to a group of particular accidents that involve people who did not know they were running any risk, and the general tone is personal and individual and inclined to [bathos?].

The tune is [?] a late 19th [century?] popular type of melody. Sung by Robert Walker, 1942-1952.

15E [B,?] MILWAUKEE FIRE 'Twas the gray of early morning when the dreadful cry of , " Fire [?] Rang out upon the cold and piercing air. Just that little word [*1?] alone was all it did require [Thus spoken *1?] To send dismay and panic everywhere [.] Milwaukee was excited as she never'd been before On learning that the fire bells all around Were ringing through eternity a hundred souls or more , And the New Hall House was burning to the ground. Chorus: OH [?] hear the fire bells ringing in on the morning's early dawn. Oh [?] hear them as they give the dreadful cry Oh hear the wail of terror, mid fierce and burning flames [.] Heaven Heaven protect and bless those waiting there to [die! ?] In every window men and women wildly would beseech For help in tones of anguish and despair [?] What must have been their feelings [*2?] [When the ladders did not reach , *2] And they found death's grasp around them everywhere ! A man stood in the window and his wife stood by his side [.] This man they say he was a millionaire , And to save him from this dreadful death , [*3?] [They left no means untried , *3] But gold nor treasure had no value there. A boy stood in the window and his mother down below, And when she saw the flames approaching wild , With up-raised hands to heaven she knelt down in the snow , And the strongest heart hearts could not restrain a tear. She rushed towards the fire and she wildly tore [her?] hair, Saying , " God , take me but spare my pride [my?] joy [. ?] She saw the flames surround him and then in dark despair Said , " Oh God , have mercy on my only boy. " Up in the highest window stood a servant girl alone, And the crowd beneath all stood with bated breath ; They turned away their faces with many a stifled groan [.] As she jumped perhaps to meet as hard a death. Now they tell us this hotel had been on fire before , And had not considered safe for many years [.] But the man that owned it let it run on as before ; But he is not to blame it now

appears. Incendiarism this time has been the cause they say, But who the fiend is[,] they cannot tell But the people of Milwaukee will neither rest by night or nor day Until this matter is investigated well. 2 Milwaukee Fire. But this will be no benefit to those who passed away In Milwaukee's greatest funeral pyre[,] Peace be to their ashes ! [Is?] the best that we can say Of the victims of this great and dreadful fire. finis. 1 1 of 2 [??] [?] [Songs?] The fire [?] place Jan [10?] 1883 [R W was? ?] [?] 17 the? same year [The Newhall House?]

Text Robertson, Sidney [md] collector Ford, Warde [md] singer Asmussen, Ella [md] transcriber of text Recorded at Central Valley, Shasta Co., California December 1938 UC WPA Disk No. 15E-B1

Milwaukee Fire[[1?]?] 'Twas the gray of early morning when the dreadful cry of "Fire" Rang out upon the cold and piercing air. One [Just that ?] little word, [thus spoken?] alone , was all it did require For [To?] send dismay and panic everywhere. [[2?]?] Milwaukee was excited as she [it?] never'd been before On [hearing?] [hearing that the fire bells all around Were ringing to [through ?] eternity a [?] hundred souls or more, And the New / Hall House was burning to the ground ' .[

[3?] When the dreadful alarm was ? rung? ? off? - condemned? ?. They used in? mad ? ? The make was? ? ? and bleeding? them? as well? The Fire King could not be held as ? ?] OH, hear the fire bells ringing on the morning's early dawn! Oh, hear them as they give the dreadful cry! Oh, hear the wail of terror, mid fierce and burning flames[!?][Heaven?] protect and bless those waiting there to die!

[not ? ? or?]

[[4?]?] [In?] From every window men and women wildly [would ?] did beseech For help in tones of anguish and despair; What must [could ?] have been their feelings when the ladders did [would ?] not reach, And [[?] they found [?] death's grasp around them everywhere[!]?[? ? ? ? ?] could see a man. ?] [[6.]?] A man stood in the window [and?] his wife stood by his side [This?] man [[?] they say he] ?] was a millionaire[, ?][[?] And [?] to save him from this dreadful death [[?] , they left no means untried, But [gold Gold ?] [nor treasure ?] had no value there.

[The ? ?]

[[7?]?] A boy stood in the [a ?] window and his mother down below, And when she saw the [[?] danger drawing near, [] ?] flames approaching wild With up-raised hands to [[??] heaven, she knelt down in the snow, And the [[[strongest?]] ?] [stoutest ?] heart hearts could not restrain a tear. [[8] ?] She [[?] rushed toward towards the fire and wildly tore her hair, Saying[,?] [take me [O ?] ?] [[?]" God take me [] ?] but spare my pride and joy[!"]? She saw the flames surround him and then in deep dark despair, Said, "Oh God, have mercy on my only boy. [" ?][[?] ?] Up in the highest window stood a servant girl alone, The crowd beneath all stood with bated breath; They turned away their faces with many many's a the stifled groan, [As?] [When?] ?] she jumped [perhaps?] to meet as hard a death.

[And as crowd beneath all stood with bated breath?]

[[9?] ?] Now, they tell us how this hotel had been on fire before, And had still not been considered safe for [many?] several years, [But?] the man that owned it let it run on as before; But he is not to blame it now appears. [And they are?] 2 2 of 2 Milwaukee Fire Incendiarism this time has been the cause they say, But who the fiend is, [?] they cannot tell. But [[?] the people of [] ?] Milwaukee will neither not rest [neither?] by night nor or day, Until this matter is investigated well. [over the?] But [they this will be no benefit to those who passed away In Milwaukee's greatest funeral pyre. Peace be to their ashes [!?] [is?] the best that we can say [Of And ?] the victims of this great and dreadful fire.

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